

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Attorney Docket No. 2006\_1256A  
Toshiaki KURACHI et al. : **Confirmation No. 8440**  
Serial No. 10/588,544 : Group Art Unit 2821  
Filed August 7, 2006 : Examiner Jianzi Chen  
DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE : **Mail Stop: ISSUE FEE**  
LAMP LIGHTING DEVICE

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**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowability dated August 13, 2010, Applicants submit the following comments:

Applicants note that in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner states that the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest "a dielectric barrier discharge lamp lighting device for driving a dielectric barrier discharge lamp having an inner electrode (4) and an external electrode (5, as shown in Fig. 3), comprising: a self-resonant frequency  $f_r$  of the secondary coil, which is measured with the primary coil of the transformer being open, is equal to the driving frequency  $f_d$ " in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as claimed in independent claim 1.

However, Applicants submit that, according to the present invention, the driving frequency  $f_d$  and the self-resonant frequency  $f_r$  are equal or substantially equal and "the self-resonant frequency  $f_r$  which is equal to the driving frequency  $f_d$ " has a certain frequency margin. Therefore, as discussed with the Examiner, Applicants submit that the scope of claim 1, as amended by the Examiner, includes a dielectric barrier discharge lamp with a self-resonant frequency  $f_r$  which is a frequency in the vicinity of the driving frequency  $f_d$ .

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiaki KURACHI et al.

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

By 2010.11.09 13:43:53 -05'00'

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